



Converting Smoking Rooms

Many of the chemicals found in secondhand smoke are very sticky. As a result, secondhand smoke residue can be difficult to remove. The surest way to convert a smoking room into a nonsmoking room is to replace bedding, mattresses, carpeting, curtains, and the like. However, that can be expensive.

For a more economical approach, try these cleaning tips:

- ❖ Wash pillows and linens with a bleach solution.
- ❖ Steam clean mattresses.
- ❖ Dry clean curtains.
- ❖ Steam clean carpets and other upholstered items.
- ❖ Wipe down walls and other surfaces with a solution of water and mild detergent.
- ❖ You may need to repaint. Before repainting, prime the walls with an odor- and stain-blocking primer. Consider replacing any wallpaper—secondhand smoke often permeates the paper and wall glue.
- ❖ Rarely, it is necessary to replace porous materials such as sheetrock and pressed wood (cabinets, furniture, etc.). These materials can soak up secondhand smoke particles with prolonged exposure.

The Health Department is available to assist you in this process and answer any questions.

Phone: 311 or (877) 286-6431 Email: smokefree@nola.gov